

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CUSTODY OF CONTROLLED DRUGS: STEEL SAFES

The custody of controlled drugs is specified in the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977, Regulations 28(1) and 28(2). The Medical Officers of Health at the Ministry of Health, after consultation with the New Zealand Police, have determined the following minimum specifications for a steel safe that is used for the secure storage of controlled drugs, in licensed pharmacies.

An application can be made to Medical Officers of Health for steel safe that does not meet the specifications listed below. Where reference is made to an official New Zealand or British Standard and a product or method used differs from that standard, the applicant must produce appropriate evidence (eg, certification from an accredited locksmith or registered engineer) that the proposed or fitted security complies with, equals, or exceeds the given standard. Approval will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Construction

Steel safes must be constructed of:

- steel equivalent to 4mm mild steel strength for the body of the safe and 6mm mild steel strength for the door, for safes measuring up to and including 600mm in any dimension (height, width, depth)
- steel equivalent to 6mm mild steel strength for safes measuring over 600mm in any dimension (height, width, depth).

Steel safes must have recessed door(s) and protected hinges. Steel safes must be able to withstand reasonable physical attack with handheld tools or weapons, and must be built and finished in a professional manner with negligible gaps between all fixed parts.

Locking mechanism

For steel safes measuring up to and including 600mm in any dimension (height, width, depth):

- one locking mechanism of no less strength and security performance than a five lever mortice dead lock complying with BS3621:1998 shall be fitted to the safe door.

For steel safes measuring over 600mm in any dimension (height, width, depth):

- two locking mechanisms of no less strength and security performance than a five lever mortice dead lock complying with BS3621:1998 shall be fitted to the safe door. (Note that the second mechanism can be an indirect locking mechanism, eg, locking bolts activated by a handle).

Door handles must be designed to break off under leverage.

Fixing

When the steel safe measures:

- up to and including 600mm in any dimension (height, width, depth) it must be bolted to a minimum of one surface of solid construction
- over 600mm in any dimension (height, width, depth) it must be bolted to a minimum of two surfaces of solid construction.

Bolt shafts, used to attach the safe to the premise, must be a minimum of 10mm in diameter and when bolted into concrete, use expanding or chemical setting bolts. Where the steel safe is bolted to a wooden floor, it should be bolted through to a steel plate which exceeds the floor area of the cabinet and is retained on at least two floor joists. All nuts must be on the inside of the safe, and bolts welded or burred to resist removal.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CUSTODY OF CONTROLLED DRUGS: STEEL SAFES

	Up to and including 600mm in any dimension (height, width, depth)	Over 600mm in any dimension (height, width, depth)
CONSTRUCTION		
Steel safes used for the storage of controlled drugs must be constructed of steel equivalent to:	4mm mild steel	6mm mild steel
The door(s) must be recessed, have protected hinges and be constructed of steel equivalent to:	6mm mild steel	6mm mild steel
<p>Note. Steel safes must withstand reasonable physical attack with handheld tools and weapons, and must be built and finished in a professional manner with negligible gaps between all fixed parts.</p>		
MECHANISM		
Number of locking mechanisms of no less strength and security performance than a five lever mortice dead lock complying with BS3621:1998 fitted to the safe door:	One	Two*
<p>Note. Door handles must be designed to break off under leverage.</p> <p>*The second mechanism can be an indirect locking mechanism (eg, locking bolts activated by a handle).</p>		
FIXING		
Bolted to the following minimum number of surfaces of solid construction:	One	Two
<p>Note. Bolt shafts, used to attach the safe to the premise, must be a minimum of 10mm in diameter and when bolted into concrete, use expanding or chemical setting bolts. Where the safe is bolted to a wooden floor, it should be bolted through to a steel plate which exceeds the floor area of the safe and is retained on at least two floor joists. All nuts must be on the inside of the safe, and bolts welded or burred to resist removal.</p>		